

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following section heading and paragraph to the end of the specification on a separate sheet.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A capacitive uterine contraction sensor includes an insulating substrate, a first electrode disposed on one side of the substrate, and a second electrode positioned on the first side of the substrate in a spaced relation to the first electrode. The second electrode is configured to move toward or away from the first electrode. The sensor may also include a conductive standoff sandwiched between the substrate and the second electrode for maintaining the second electrode in spaced relation to the first electrode. The conductive standoff is electrically coupled to the second electrode and electrically isolated from the first electrode. Alternatively, the second electrode may include a spring mechanism used in conjunction with a standoff to maintain the second electrode in spaced relation to the first electrode. The spring mechanism is electrically isolated from the first electrode and enables the second electrode to move toward or away from the first electrode.

As requested by the Examiner, the new abstract has been presented on a separate sheet, apart from any other text in the form of the accompanying file named "Abstract of the Disclosure".

Please replace paragraph number [0003] with the following paragraph:

[0003] Information of fetal distress will result in prompt remedial action, including a cesarean delivery, both during pregnancy and/or during actual labor. Likewise, early contractions can be treated so as to achieve full-term pregnancies. Examples of currently available fetal monitors include the ~~FetaScan~~ FETASCAN from ~~International Biomedics, Inc.~~ INTERNATIONAL BIOMEDICS, INC., the ~~Cerometries~~ COROMETRICS 115, and the ~~Hewlett-Packard~~ HEWLETT-PACKARD 8040A.

Please replace paragraph number [0006] with the following paragraph:

[0006] Other devices, known as tocotonometers, are capable of non-invasively sensing uterine activity and, therefore, are widely used with fetal monitors. Tocotonometers measure the hardness of the abdomen wall, which is an indication of the uterine activity, by various mechanical means. Specifically, tocotonometers include strain gauge elements mounted to an elastic member or are based on ~~LVDT~~ linear variable differential transformer (LVDT) sensors. Tocotonometers are expensive, structurally delicate, i.e., break easily, and are difficult to sanitize between uses. In use, the tocotonometer is held in contact with the abdomen, usually by a belt-like device, in the vicinity of the fundus, i.e., the top of the uterus. The tocotonometer under pre-load by the belt responds with a constant recording level between contractions. The output of the tocotonometer is transmitted to the fetal monitor. Examples of such tocotonometers are manufactured by ~~Huntleigh~~ HUNTLEIGH, Model #447; ~~Corometrics~~ COROMETRICS, Model #2260; and ~~Hewlett-Packard~~ HEWLETT-PACKARD, Model #15248A. Other types of mechanical-type sensors for measuring uterine contractions are disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,913,563; 4,949,730; 4,966,152; and 4,989,615. Like tocotonometers, these devices are expensive, complicated in construction and use, and difficult to sanitize between uses. The sensor disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,949,730 utilizes a piezoelectric element which cannot measure contractions over a sustained period of time because the charge of the piezoelectric element dissipates quickly, e.g., several seconds.